

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 158191

NODIS

FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 19788 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 07 JUL

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S E C R E T PARIS 19788

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: UR, US, FR

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD

1. AFTER PRESENTING MY CREDENTIALS, PRESIDENT
GISCARD INDICATED THAT HE WANTED TO DISCUSS
SERIOUS MATTERS RATHER THAN HAVE THE USUAL EXCHANGE
OF PLEASANTRIES. HE SAID THAT HE IS LOOKING
FORWARD TO MY SERVICE HERE; THERE WERE ALWAYS
PROBLEMS COMING UP IN OUR RELATIONSHIP BUT THAT
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WITH SOME SKILL ON BOTH SIDES WE OUGHT TO BE ABLE
TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS. HE PARTICULARLY
COMPLIMENTED MY INTERVIEW IN "LE POINT" WHICH HE
SAID SET JUST THE RIGHT TONE.

2. WE BEGAN A BRIEF DISCUSSION ON US-SOVIET REL-
ATIONS BY THE PRESIDENT ONCE AGAIN INDICATING

HIS PERSONAL DISAPPOINTMENT AND UNHAPPINESS WITH THE LEAK OF HIS LAST CONVERSATION WITH YOU. I TOLD HIM THAT YOU WERE EQUALLY UNHAPPY THAT INFORMATION HAS BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO YOUR CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD BUT THAT IN FACT YOU HAD TAKEN ELABORATE PRECAUTIONS TO ASSURE THAT ONLY A FEW PEOPLE BESIDE PRESIDENT CARTER WERE AWARE OF THE CONTENTS OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH YOU. IN ANY CASE I STRESSED YOUR DESIRE TO CONTINUE THESE INFORMAL AND USEFUL EXCHANGES AND THAT EACH SIDE MUST DO A BETTER JOB OF PROTECTION OF PRIVACY.

3. GISCARD ONCE AGAIN STRESSED THAT THE SOVIETS SEEMED DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT. THEY VIEW THE HUMAN RIGHTS STAND, THE CONTENT OF THE NOTRE DAME SPEECH AND THE SALT PROPOSALS AS PART OF THE TOTAL PATTERN OF ATTEMPTS BY THE NEW ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE ADVANTAGE. GISCARD DOES NOT SHARE THIS VIEW BUT HE ASSUMES FROM THE MORNING PRESS THAT HIS CONCLUSION WAS JUSTIFIED THAT BREZHNEV DOES NOT WANT TO SEE THE PRESIDENT UNTIL AFTER THE SALT AGREEMENT IS CONCLUDED. HE SAID THAT HE HAD TALKED TO SCHMIDT ON THE PHONE BEFORE SCHMIDT'S DEPARTURE FOR CANADA AND THAT BOTH AGREED THAT THIS CONTINUING DIFFICULTY IN US-SOVIET RELATIONS IS NOT HEALTHY AND THAT
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SCHMIDT SHOULD DISCUSS THIS MATTER PERSONALLY WITH THE PRESIDENT TO SEE IF ANY ADVICE CAN BE GIVEN TO IMPROVE MATTERS.

4. GISCARD SAID THAT HE AND SCHMIDT ALSO AGREED THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE AN AGREED STRATEGY BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE US ON THE MID-EAST, AS OUR POSITIONS WERE VERY CLOSE TOGETHER FOLLOWING THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE EC SUMMIT MEETING. GISCARD THOUGHT THAT IT OUGHT TO BE POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT A MUTUALLY REINFORCING EFFORT TO PREVENT THE NEGOTIATIONS FROM BEING STALLED. THE BURDEN OF HIS REMARKS WAS THAT PRESSURE WOULD HAVE TO BE APPLIED PARTICULARLY TO BEGEN.

5. ALSO IN THE CONVERSATION WITH SCHMIDT, GISCARD DISCUSSED THE NUCLEAR PROBLEM. APPARENTLY IN TERMS QUITE FAMILIAR TO THOSE BEING EXPRESSED TO GERRY SMITH TODAY. THE ONLY POINT ADDED BY GISCARD WITH SOME EMPHASIS WAS HIS FEAR THAT PRODUCERS OF URANIUM WOULD BEGIN TO SET CONDITIONS THAT IN FACT WOULD PREJUDGE THE STUDY AGREED AT THE LONDON SUMMIT.

HE MENTIONED THE CANADIANS PARTICULARLY. HE ALSO
ADDED THAT WE SHOULD KNOW THAT FRANCE HAS ENOUGH OF
ITS OWN URANIUM FROM MINES IN FRANCE FOR ITS MILITARY
NEEDS AND THEREFORE THE MATTER OF CIVILIAN AND
MILITARY USES COULD BE SEPARATED. (GERRY WILL
BE REPORTING MORE FULLY ON THIS WHOLE SUBJECT.)

6. THIS WILL BE MY LAST PLEASANT CONVERSATION IN
PARIS FOR SOME TIME IF THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW
YORK TAKES THE WRONG DECISION TONIGHT BUT GISCARD
AT ANY RATE APPEARS TO WANT CLOSE AND
PRODUCTIVE RELATIONS WITH THE US WITH A MINIMUM OF
PUBLIC EXCHANGES OR ACCUSATIONS -- AT LEAST UNTIL
WE HAVE MADE EVERY EFFORT TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS
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PRAGMATICALLY.
HARTMAN UNQTE VANCE

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